GATORMUN XXI

RUNAWAY REACTOR: PRIPYAT 1986

BACKGROUND GUIDE

NATHALIA RAMIREZ

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Quorum

A majority of voting members answering to the roll at each session shall constitute a quorum for that session. This means that half plus one of all voting members are present. Quorum will be assumed consistent unless questioned through a Point of Order. Delegates may request to be noted as “Present” or “Present and Voting.”

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of a Moderated Caucus

This motion must include three specifications

- Length of the Caucus
- Speaking Time, and
- Reason for the Caucus

During a moderated caucus, delegates will be called on to speak by the Committee Director. Delegates will raise their placards to be recognized. Delegates must maintain the same degree of decorum throughout a Moderated Caucus as in formal debate. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of an Unmoderated Caucus

This motion must include the length of the Caucus. During an unmoderated caucus, delegates may get up from their seats and talk amongst themselves. This motion requires a simple majority to pass. The length of an unmoderated caucus in a Crisis committee should not exceed fifteen minutes.

Motion to Suspend the Meeting

This motion is in order if there is a scheduled break in debate to be observed. (ie. Lunch!) This motion requires a simple majority vote. The Committee Director may refuse to entertain this motion at their discretion.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

This motion is in order at the end of the last committee session. It signifies the closing of the committee until next year's conference.

Points of Order

Points of Order will only be recognized for the following items:

- To recognize errors in voting, tabulation, or procedure,
- To question relevance of debate to the current Topic or
- To question a quorum.

A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker if necessary and it is to be used sparingly.

Points of Inquiry

When there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may direct a question to the Committee Director. Any question directed to another delegate may only be asked immediately after the delegate has finished speaking on a substantive matter. A delegate that declines to respond to a question after a formal speech forfeits any further questioning time.

Points of Personal Privilege

Points of personal privilege are used to request information or clarification and conduct all other business of the body except Motions or Points specifically mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Please note: The Director may refuse to recognize Points of Order, Points of Inquiry or Points of Personal Privilege if the Committee Director believes the decorum and restraint inherent in the exercise has been violated, or if the point is deemed dilatory in nature.

Rights of Reply

At the Committee Director's discretion, any member nation or observer may be granted a Right of Reply to answer serious insults directed at the dignity of the delegate present. The Director has the ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY to accept or reject Rights of Reply, and the decision IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL. Delegates who feel they are being treated unfairly may take their complaint to any member of the Secretariat.

Directives

Directives act as a replacement for Draft Resolutions when in Crisis committees, and are the actions that the body decides to take as a whole. Directives are not required to contain operative or preambulatory clauses. A directive should contain:

- The name(s) of the author(s),
- A title, and
- A number of signatories/sponsors signatures' necessary to introduce, determined by the Director.

A simple majority vote is required to introduce a directive, and multiple directives may be introduced at once. Press releases produced on behalf of the body must also be voted on as Directives.

Friendly Amendments

Friendly Amendments are any changes to a formally introduced Directive that all Sponsors agree to in writing. The Committee Director must approve the Friendly Amendment and confirm each Sponsor's agreement both verbally and in writing.

Unfriendly Amendments

Unfriendly Amendments are any substantive changes to a formally introduced Directive that are not agreed to by all of the Sponsors of the Directive. In order to introduce an Unfriendly Amendment, the Unfriendly Amendment must be the number equivalent to 1/3 of Quorum confirmed signatories. The Committee Director has the authority to discern between substantive and non-substantive Unfriendly amendment proposals.

Plagiarism

GatorMUN maintains a zero-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. Delegates found to have used the ideas of others without properly citing those individuals, organizations, or documents will have their credentials revoked for the duration of the GatorMUN conference. This is a very serious offense.

Crisis Notes

A crisis note is an action taken by an individual in a Crisis committee. Crisis notes do not need to be introduced or voted on, and should be given to the Crisis Staff by sending the notes to a designated pickup point in each room. A crisis note should both be addressed to crisis and have the delegate's position on both the inside and outside of the note.

Motion to Enter Voting Procedure

Once this motion passes, and the committee enters Voting Procedure, no occupants of the committee room may exit the Committee Room, and no individual may enter the Committee Room from the outside. A member of the Dias will secure all doors.

- No talking, passing notes, or communicating of any kind will be tolerated during voting procedures.
- Each Directive will be read to the body and voted upon in the order which they were introduced. Any Proposed Unfriendly Amendments to each Directive will be read to the body and voted upon before the main body of the Directive as a whole is put to a vote.
- Delegates who requested to be noted as "Present and Voting" are unable to abstain during voting procedure. Abstentions will not be counted in the tallying of a majority. For example, 5 yes votes, 4 no votes, and 7 abstentions means that the Directive passes.
- The Committee will adopt Directives and Unfriendly Amendments to Directives if these documents pass with a simple majority. Specialized committees should refer to their background-guides or Committee Directors for information concerning specific voting procedures.

Roll Call Voting

A counted placard vote will be considered sufficient unless any delegate to the committee motions for a Roll Call Vote. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the committee must comply. All delegates must vote: "For," "Against," "Abstain," or "Pass." During a Roll Call vote, any delegate who answers, "Pass," reserves his/her vote until the

Committee Director has exhausted the Roll. However, once the Committee Director returns to “Passing” Delegates, they must vote: “For” or “Against.”

Accepting by Acclamation

This motion may be stated when the Committee Director asks for points or motions. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the motion to Accept by Acclamation is voided. If a delegate believes a Directive will pass without opposition, he or she may move to accept the Directive by acclamation. The motion passes unless a single delegate shows opposition. An abstention is not considered opposition. Should the motion fail, the committee will move directly into a Roll Call Vote.

BACKGROUND

The City of Pripyat and the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Situation

It is impossible to discuss the development of Pripyat without also discussing that of the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station. Pripyat was developed as what is known as an atomgrad. Atomgrads were small industrial cities whose basis was to serve one or more nearby industrial plants.[1] The Pripyat atomgrad was constructed in 1970 to staff the nearby Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station. At the time of the disaster, Pripyat was a very new and modern city, with the average age of residents being 25 years old. The total population around the time of the Chernobyl Disaster was estimated to be around 45,000 people. As was custom in the USSR, the atomgrad of Pripyat did not have any travel restrictions. In fact, Pripyat was constructed in the Soviet "shock-work project" style by super productive assemblies of young workers.[2] Its construction was overseen by Maria Volodymyrivna Protsenko. Pripyat's design featured five districts all connected to a central road that led to the Chernobyl Power Plant. The city also featured a city center, medical complex, and a specific area for all public facilities and educational buildings.

Constructed in 1970, Chernobyl consisted of four RBMK-1000 nuclear reactors. Although not the first of its type constructed in the Soviet Union, the Chernobyl Power Plant was the first nuclear plant to be constructed in Ukraine. The plant was constructed in phases, with the reactors being completed in anywhere from one to three years apart. In 1986, the plant featured four operational reactors with fifth and sixth reactors approaching the final stages of construction.[3]

For the most part, the construction of the Chernobyl Power Plant was modelled after the Kursk nuclear power plant. The reactor cores are grouped by generations, with Reactor No. 1 and No. 2 being generation one designs and No. 3 and No. 4 making up the second generation. It is important to note that the generation two reactors featured more complex containment structures. After the Chernobyl Disaster, reactors 1-3 remained partially operational, even after the meltdown of Reactor No. 4. However, by the year 2000 all four of Chernobyl's Reactors had been shut down for good.[4]

In addition to being home to the Chernobyl plant, Pripyat features a variety of transit systems to support the city's industry and daily life. Besides the civilian bus system, Pripyat includes the Yaniv freight train station and Chernobyl service garage, a storage unit for heavy machinery. Water transit was also essential to Pripyat's functional success. The most notable water transit feature was Debarker D-241, a floating pier. Unfortunately, Debarker D-241 became detached from the mainland during the Chernobyl disaster and eventually floated off to a remote location.[5]

The Soviet Union

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), also known as the Soviet Union, was an empire located in Northern Europe. This empire stretched across over 6,800 miles, existing from 1922 until its dissolution in 1991.[6] Immediately preceding its collapse, The USSR included 15 individual regions known as Soviet Socialist Republics (SSRs), with the capital located in the Russian SSR in the city of Moscow. After the establishment of the USSR in 1917 and the structuring of the empire into a collection of SSRs that would

continue to grow, the constitution of the USSR was then adopted in 1936.[7]

Government Structure

The political foundation of the USSR featured a presidential leader and subsequent legislative and judiciary bodies. The executive position of the Soviet Union underwent frequent structural and name changes. Mikhail Gorbachev was the leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 until its dissolution in December of 1991. As president, Gorbachev acted as commander in chief of the armed forces, had legislative veto power, acted as the nation's top representative, among other typical executive powers.

The bicameral legislature of the USSR, known as the Supreme Soviet, featured the 750 representatives of the Soviet of the Union and the 750 members of the Soviet of Nationalities. Although elected on a regional basis, the members of the people's council were almost exclusively candidates from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). The idea was for legislation to be approved by the Supreme Soviet however, due to corruption, decisions were made by an elite group known as the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. The Presidium was mostly informed by political influences and agendas from within the Communist Party. Although it aimed at a bicameral structure, the sole role of the People's Deputies in the Supreme Soviet was to enact whatever policies were chosen by the elite Presidium within their respective republics. These realities resulted in a highly concentrated, authoritarian political and economic system, up until the adoption of the glasnost and perestroika reformative policies towards the end of the USSR's existence. The judiciary of the USSR consisted of a supreme court known as the Military Collegium and a People's Court that functioned like the lower courts here in the United States.[8]

The Communist Party

Another crucial aspect of understanding the structure of the Soviet Union is understanding the Communist Party. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) was the sole political party of the USSR until a constitutional amendment revoked the CPSU guarantee of political monopoly. The CPSU arose from the Russian

Social Democratic Labor Party and as can be assumed from its name, retained a focus on worker's rights and anti-Tsarism. Vladimir Lenin served as the founding member of the CPSU. He led his separatist faction known as the Bolsheviks until the party won the Russian Civil War in 1920 and seized power. Two years later, the Soviet Union was officially formed with Lenin as its leader and the CPSU as its sole political party.[9]

Nuclear Development

After the discovery of nuclear fission in Germany, 1938, Soviet physicists began what would come to be known as the Soviet Atomic Program. Following a slight shift of focus following the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, physicists refocused their attention on atomic development once again. The Soviet Atomic Program would remain in the shadow of the United States' Manhattan Project for years to come.

However, the program picked up at Stalin's request after the 1945 Potsdam Conference at which president Truman hinted at the United States' successes in nuclear development. Then, following the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki months later, Stalin gave the order for Soviet scientists to dedicate even more time and resources to nuclear development. The first Soviet production reactor was built in 1948, and the first atomic bomb, RDS-1, would be detonated soon after in early 1949. From this point forward, the USSR and the United States became engaged in a fierce Cold War nuclear arms race. The two nations' nuclear development, and the potential for mutually assured destruction, became the focal point of global politics.

A common misconception is that international espionage was a crucial aspect of worldwide nuclear development. However, from a scientific perspective, once it was found that nuclear fission was possible, any nation with sufficient scientific resources, both human and technological, had nuclear power within their grasp. Experts suggest that Soviet nuclear development was not entirely dependent on espionage, but do not deny that the intelligence gained by spies such as Klaus Fuchs did speed up the atomic bomb's development in the USSR.

The Chernobyl Disaster

The Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station housed four RBMK-1000 reactors, a Soviet-made type of graphite boiling light water reactors. The reactor creates immense amounts of heat and steam through a uranium reaction. The steam is then channeled to power turbines and create electricity. Water is constantly pumped around the ongoing uranium reaction to act as a cooling agent, and control rods that can impede reactivity also serve to control the pace of the reaction.[10]

In short, the Chernobyl Disaster was caused by the improper design of the nuclear reactors at the plant and by the actions of under trained nuclear technicians. The Chernobyl reactor's lack of a functioning fail safe and other safety features was worsened by technician mismanagement of the reactor. Due to its expedited construction, the reactor cores of Chernobyl were susceptible to the positive void effect. This design flaw of RBMK-1000 reactors causes them to form steam pockets that, when burst, release sudden pops of concentrated energy. During the disaster, plant operators accidentally allowed several steam pockets to form in the cooling chamber by removing control rods during a safety test on Chernobyl's backup generators. Experts described this fatal error as the nuclear equivalent of "pressing a car's gas pedal to the floor".[11] By removing all the control rods, the reactor core overheated. Fission reactions burst the steam voids that had formed, releasing an immense amount of heated steam and hydrogen gas that burst the roof off the building. Even worse than the damage done to the

to the reactor and its containment structures was the toxic graphite fire started by the explosion.[12] This massive fire poured radioactive material into the surrounding atmosphere for the following 15 days. Comparatively, The Chernobyl Disaster radiation output was equal to 500 times the amount of radiation released in the bombing of Hiroshima.

While Chernobyl's design was flawed from the start, independent investigations emphasize the role of operator error in the plant's explosion. The backup engine test was only to be carried out while the reactor was in stable condition. Despite evident malfunctions within the reactor, the night shift technicians proceeded with the safety test instead of shutting the reactor down.[13] Immediately following the explosion of Reactor No. 4, one technician was killed instantly while a second died shortly thereafter. In the weeks following the disaster, 28 people succumbed to the effects of Acute Radiation Syndrome (ARS), and hundreds more plant workers were diagnosed with ARS as time went on.

Acute Radiation Syndrome

Acute Radiation Syndrome, commonly referred to as radiation sickness or radiation poisoning, is caused by high levels of radiation penetrating the body and reaching the organs in a short period of time. Symptoms include nausea and vomiting, headache, fever, dizziness, fatigue, and internal bleeding. After exposure, radiation sickness progresses from a prodromal stage featuring the aforementioned symptoms to a manifest illness stage in which symptoms specify depending on whether the ARS contracted is gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, or within the bone marrow. Patients ill with radiation sickness are treated by managing any infections resulting from their ARS, ensuring they stay hydrated, and by treating any external burns or injuries that may have resulted from their exposure.[14] The survival rates of patients with ARS depends on the level of radiation they were exposed to, the greater the exposure the more likely a patient is to die of ARS.

Children were among the most vulnerable to the harmful radiation emitted by the Chernobyl Disaster. Studies have shown increased rates of thyroid cancers in children and teens exposed to the blast,

in addition to increased risk of heart diseases and cancers among all age groups. Chernobyl Disaster emergency responders and technicians on scene also suffered from the immediate and long-term impacts of the blast. Many sustained severe burns and injuries before later being diagnosed with ARS. It is important to note that the Chernobyl Disaster also had severe mental health impacts that traumatized the residents of Pripyat. The collective trauma of both the disaster itself and government mismanagement of the incident and evacuation caused Soviet citizens to develop a deep mistrust of their government. Many historians attribute citizen frustration with the Chernobyl Disaster and it's handling as contributing to the eventual dissolution of the USSR in 1991, just five years later.

The damage done by radiation exposure from the Chernobyl Disaster was magnified by water contamination. While the efforts of dive teams following the disaster were able to combat some of the primary contamination, there was still significant secondary contamination of groundwater systems. The permeation of radioactive damage into aquifers and mineral deposits deep below the earth's surface demonstrates the magnitude of the Chernobyl Disaster. Even after initial elevated levels of radiation subsided, high concentrations of radionuclides continued to proliferate underground and migrate throughout rock and water features. The prevention of further water and earth contamination was and continues to be a focal part of the Chernobyl Disaster response. This contamination is arguably the most dangerous type, as the water in and around the Chernobyl exclusion zone can easily spread dangerous radiation if distributed.

Surprisingly, when initial reports of Reactor No. 4's explosion were reported to general secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, he received no news that the reactor had exploded and was spewing radiation into the atmosphere.[15] Gorbachev was simply told that there had been a fire at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy station but that the reactors were all still intact. Because of this grave miscommunication, Gorbachev ordered a state-level investigation and response to the issue. State officials feared cruelty at the hands of the communist party if they were to report the scale of the Chernobyl Disaster to party officials in Moscow, so the magnitude of the blast was not

"Attention! Attention! In connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station, unfavorable radiation conditions are developing in the city of Pripyat. To ensure complete safety for residents, children first and foremost, it has become necessary to carry out a temporary evacuation of the city's residents to nearby settlements of Kyiv oblast [province]. For that purpose, buses will be provided to every residence today, April 27, beginning at 14:00 hours, under the supervision of police officers and representatives of the city executive committee. It is recommended that people take documents, absolutely necessary items and food products to meet immediate needs. Comrades, on leaving your dwellings, please do not forget to close windows, switch off electrical and gas appliances and turn off water taps. Please remain calm, organized, and orderly."

After being told they would be able to return to their homes within due time, Pripyat residents were given only two hours' notice to gather their belongings and evacuate the city. Residents were advised to pack two to three days' worth of food and clothing as well as any important belongings. There were also reports of many residents attempting to bring radiation meters, known as dosimeters, but these devices were confiscated by the authorities.

Pripyat Today

Since its initial evacuation on April 27th, the city of Pripyat has been an uninhabited ghost town. Following the Chernobyl Disaster, a highly toxic area known as the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone was established and declared to be uninhabitable for at least 20,000 years. To contain the remains of Reactor No. 4, an enormous steel and concrete sarcophagus has been built around the rubble. Like the focus of the initial Chernobyl emergency response, the sarcophagus seeks to prevent harmful levels of radiation from further permeating the surrounding areas. Over time, the sarcophagus has become weathered and, thus, requires constant maintenance. An additional safety measure known as the New Safe Confinement Structure was constructed in 2017 to work in tandem with the existing sarcophagus.[16]

The May Day Celebration

Historically, the celebration of the May Day holiday was an important part of the vision of the USSR. Celebrated May first, the holiday serves as a proletarian celebration that seeks to channel the spirit of workers within their communities. The holiday was celebrated throughout the Soviet Union, and versions of the holiday continue to be celebrated today. Like Labor Day in the United States, May Day celebrations are focused on the achievements and dedication of laborers and their importance to their country. Soviet May Day celebrations often featured community parades of thousands of workers, tributes to Communist Party leaders, and other festivities. In the present time, after the dissolution of the USSR, May Day is still celebrated throughout eastern Europe. However, the holiday is more focused on celebrating the beauty of spring and appreciating nature.[17]

This committee takes place in late April of 1986 in the city of Pripyat. The May Day celebration is approaching fast, thus it will be the task of delegates to prepare the festivities to celebrate the importance of Pripyat's nuclear technicians, city leaders, and other laborers who work tirelessly to upkeep the city.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How will Pripyat be evacuated safely and efficiently?
2. What should the protocol be for punitive measures regarding the Chernobyl Disaster and its investigation?
3. What environmental measures can be taken to preserve and protect the existing flora, fauna, terrain, and water surrounding the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station?
4. Can and should there be a plan to recover the forgotten items left behind by Pripyat's residents?
5. What will be the priorities and challenges of relocating over 45,000 people that used to reside in Pripyat?
6. Would it be ethical to open Chernobyl up to tourism given the magnitude of the disaster and the potential risks of radiation exposure?
7. Following the Chernobyl Disaster, what will be the best course of action for restoring trust in the government of the USSR?

POSITIONS

Anastasia Kusnetzov: Lead Nurse at Pripyat Hospital
Anastasia Kusnezov is the Lead Nurse at Pripyat Hospital, and has been since its inception. She oversees the hospital's several wards suited to address even the most serious disasters. These wards include a maternity ward, infectious disease ward, dental clinic, and morgue. However, because both Pripyat Hospital and nuclear technology are so new, the hospital lacks a robust ward in which to treat radiation injuries. Thankfully, due to the hard work and commitment of the nuclear technicians at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station, no such injuries have occurred... yet. Anastasia and her team of dedicated nurses have worked hard to keep the residents of Pripyat safe and healthy and will continue to do just that for their fellow citizens.

Danya Blavin: Superintendent of Pripyat School Districts
In addition to being the home of countless nuclear technicians, the shining city of Pripyat is also home to their families. The schools of Pripyat provide a space for children to be cultivated into exemplary citizens of the USSR's future. Danya Blavin has recently been instated as the superintendent of the Pripyat School District after a scandal involving the last superintendent. The district is home to five secondary schools, with the largest being secondary school number three. As superintendent, Danya oversees the education of nearly 7,000 students and each of the school facilities. Because of his position, Danya's authority is citywide, spanning across each of the five districts. It will be up to him to ensure each district plays their part in making the May Day Celebration a success.

Sasha Levin: Director of the Pripyat Transit Authority
Anyone who wants to get anywhere in Pripyat relies on the Pripyat Transit Authority and its bussing system. Aside from transporting residents of Pripyat within the city, the bussing system also connects Pripyat to the rest of the USSR. Sasha Levin is the mastermind of this system, ensuring that the 15 different bus routes and 167 urban buses all run on time. Despite their importance, the buses of Pripyat are

without flaws. In the past, on holidays and in emergencies, the bus stations have shut down due to staffing and logistics issues. While the May Day Celebration shouldn't cause too much traffic, it is essential that Sasha ensures the Pripyat Transit Authority is equipped to deal with any situation that may arise.

Anya Genrich: CEO of the Pripyat Phone Company
Anya Genrich is the CEO of the leading telecommunications company in Pripyat, the Pripyat Phone Company or PPC. Through her company, Anya makes sure the city of Pripyat stays online and connected. The PCC network extends throughout the city, providing cellular and computer connection to the 45,000 residents of the city. However, there have been complaints in the past that residents feel their conversations via PCC connected phones are insecure. Anya has since addressed these concerns, assuring the members of the PCC network that their calls are safe and sound.

Armen Abagian: Nuclear Power Research Institute Director
Armen Abagian is an esteemed Russian-Armenian nuclear physicist and director of the nuclear power research institute in Moscow. Based in Moscow, Armen will be coming to the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station to conduct a routine inspection of the reactors and their performances. Armen has studied nuclear physics extensively and is acutely aware of certain warning signs and points of inspection to ensure nuclear reactors are operating at safe and effective levels. With the May Day Celebration fast approaching, it is Armen's hope that the plant may pass its upcoming inspection so as not to cause panic or detract from the festivities.

Vladimir Voloshko: Head of the Executive Committee (Mayor)
Vladimir Voloshko is currently serving his second term as Head of the Executive Committee. His duties include typical mayoral duties in addition to heading the city committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Recently, mayor Voloshko has been the subject of a scandal surrounding his personal assistant, Nasputin Yefimovich. Many have criticized his choice of the estranged mystic Nasputin as his personal assistant, implying that their relationship may not be just a professional one. However, Voloshko remains unshaken by the controversy, hoping that the May Day festivities will shift the spotlight off him.

Victor Brukhanov: Director of Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station
Victor Brukhanov, Director of the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station has one mission and one mission only: to bring clean energy to the USSR and fuel their political mission. Victor, a soft spoken and kind man, has been the head of the Chernobyl nuclear project from the beginning. Despite his good attitude and commitment to nuclear development, Victor often finds himself overworked by his overseers. As director, Victor oversees plant operations, and is also responsible for anything that happens under his supervision of the plant. May Day will hopefully yield great news for Victor, as he is hoping to be promoted to Moscow to work more closely with higher ranking officials.

Alexei Miskin: Communist Party Boss and Secretary of the Communist Party Pripyat Division
Alexei Miskin is a loose cannon within the government of Pripyat who is very obviously on his own agenda. Miskin rose to prominence through the industrial ladder of the Soviet Union, going from working in construction to being a high member of government. Miskin's main job is to communicate the status of Pripyat with central forces in Moscow and with other divisions. However, he is only interested in doing as little work as possible, thus, many important incidents in Pripyat go unreported and are kept quiet to maintain the city's reputation. Alexei has one goal: ensure the May Day celebration goes on without incident so he can continue to scrape by in his questionable position of authority.

Anatoly Dyatlov: Deputy Chief Engineer for Operations at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station
Anatoly Dyatlov is one of the most experienced nuclear technicians at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station. He has worked extensively in the eastern part of the USSR with the Soviet fleet of nuclear submarines and other classified military projects. Although talented and well qualified, Dyatlov is regarded as a very strict and harsh boss by the other technicians at the plant. Because of his less than friendly personality, many of the workers at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station follow Dyatlov's orders without asking questions.

Leonid Toptunov: Senior Reactor Control Engineer
Leonid Toptunov is an experienced and well educated nuclear technician at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station, and is also a research affiliate of MIT. Toptunov is well qualified and has what it takes to be a successful nuclear technician. However, he has been given extensive responsibility despite only having worked two months at the plant. With enough training and dedication, Toptunov's fellow engineers have full faith that he will grow into his position and learn all there is to know about Chernobyl and the reactors it houses.

Valery Legasov: First Deputy Director of the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy
Valery Legasov is the First Deputy Director of the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy. He has achieved so much over his 49 years, including attaining this esteemed position at the Kurchatov Institute and has a lovely wife and two kids. However, Legasov feels that he has one final thing to prove before his retirement. He wants to make his Party members and family proud by winning the national medal for his radiochemistry research and continuing to shape the world of research and development in the Soviet Union.

Boris Scherbina: Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers of Chernobyl
Boris Scherbina is a prominent political leader, currently serving as the head of the USSR's fuel and energy sector. Although, Scherbina's power and prominence has come at a high price. He is known for his tendency to overwork his department, forcing them to bend over backwards to achieve the impossible with their deadlines and political projects. Scherbina hopes that, with a little overbearing encouragement, the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station will become one of the best in the nation and afford him even more political acclaim.

Vasily Ignatenko: Pripyat City Firefighter
Vasily Ignatenko is a Pripyat city firefighter and a well-known friendly face in Pripyat. He is athletic, talkative, and a skilled firefighter who is prepared to brave any disaster. He and his wife moved to Pripyat to work in connection with the Chernobyl Atomic

Energy Station, himself at the Paramilitary Fire Station No. 6 and his wife at the Chernobyl Cafeteria. Ignatenko has been put in charge of ensuring there are sufficient emergency personnel at the May Day Festival so that all attendees may stay safe.

Maria Protsenko: Chief Architect of the city of Pripyat

Maria Protsenko is a Sino-Russian architect born in China. Because of her foreign-orn status, Protsenko is ineligible to be a Communist Party member but does not let that prevent her from serving her country. Protsenko, on a slim budget and rushed schedule, built the city of Pripyat from top to bottom and she did so with an iron fist. Protsenko is known for her perfectionism, and it is not unheard of for her to greet construction teams with insults if their work is not to her liking. Maria Protsenko hopes that, under her watchful eye, the city of Pripyat may continue to grow.

Yuri Romanoff: May Day Festivities Coordinator

Yuri Romanoff has been appointed the May Day Festivities Coordinator by the Mayor of Pripyat. He is a young and dedicated member of the Communist Party who wants to prove himself by pulling off the celebration without any major issues. Romanoff has a background working for the emerging tourism bureau of Pripyat. Given the city's high tech flair and prime location, Romanoff wants to expand the tourist industry in the area. Since tourism in Pripyat is somewhat of an untapped frontier, Romnoff hopes to establish himself as head of this sector and earn more authority within the communist party.

Andrey Illesh: Local News Reporter

Andrey Illesh is the face of public broadcasts Pripyat, serving as the lead anchor in the Pripyat division of CT USSR. A graduate of the Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography, Illesh knows what it takes to deliver the news. However, after its initial five seconds of fame, not much big news has come out of Pripyat. Illesh hopes that the upcoming May Day festival will serve as a great source of newsworthy content and maybe even be his big break. Illesh's main goal for the festivities is to always be in the right place at the right time so he can get the most captivating coverage and maybe even land himself a reporting job in Moscow.

Vassili Nesterenko: Astrophysicist at the Nuclear Power Research
Institute Vassili Nesterenko is an astrophysicist at the Nuclear Power Research Institute in Moscow. He also works as a nuclear technician at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station; however his perspective is different from his coworkers. In his studies, Nesterenko developed both a love of nuclear science, but also a fear of the dangers of its misuse. Because of this, Nesterenko specializes in studies that can be applied to containment and sanitation efforts, a lesser known and largely unexplored field. Nesterenko is committed to the safe use of nuclear energy and his life goal is to learn more about how our friend the atom impacts our bodies and daily lives.

Alexei Ananenko: Nuclear Operations Engineer
Nuclear technician Alexei Ananenko is regarded as a well-educated, quiet, but friendly man. His job as a nuclear operations engineer is to both understand and oversee the function of the reactors at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station. Leading up to the inspection, Alexei has been fervently inspecting the reactor cores to ensure nothing is out of place. Although he is arguably one of the technicians that knows the reactors best, he lacks the authority to make any calls on their operation or shutdown. Ananenko must constantly toe the line between doing what is right and upsetting his boss with any problems with the reactors.

Nasputin Yefimovich: Personal Assistant to the Mayor of Pripyat
Nasputin Yefimovich is the personal assistant to the mayor of Pripyat, but perhaps he is something more? When mayor Voloshko revealed his choice of personal assistant, the other members of the executive committee were shocked to say the least. Nasputin has a background in fortune telling and other psychic arts, referring to himself as a holy man and mystic. Although there is no concrete evidence, some party officials in Pripyat speculate that Nasputin and Voloshko are romantically involved. Whether these rumors are true or are simply lies told by those who envy Nasputin's political power, remains a mystery.

Robert Peter Gale: American Doctor

Doctor Robert Peter Gale is a US trained doctor who is currently studying treating humans that come into contact with radiation. His research focuses on a new bone marrow transplant. Doctor Gale will be visiting Pripyat to give a presentation on his new treatment; however his visit is being highly criticized. Currently, anti-Soviet sentiment is strong in the United States. Doctor Gale's visit to Pripyat has caused many to speak out against him, claiming he is a communist spy. Others question the need for Gale's trip, citing that there are currently few radiation victims in need of treatment in the USSR. Regardless, Doctor Gale hopes to share more about his treatment and hopefully earn himself a bit of acclaim in the process.

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